

REMARKS

Claim 10 was previously cancelled. Claims 1-9 and 11 are pending. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful comments in the Office Action of August 27, 2003. The application is rejected under section 103 in light of Souders (U. S. Patent No. 5,591,289) in view of Copperwheat, U.S. Patent No. 6,008,149 ("Copperwheat").

The rejections are traversed. The claims are amended above to more clearly recite the invention. In the Office Action of March 28, 2003 the Examiner conceded that Souders does not disclose a headliner wherein a nonwoven cushioning layer is disposed in between a cover layer and a batting material. Thus, in the rejection, Souders is combined with another reference, the Copperwheat reference, to reconstruct the claimed invention.

Souder teaches a fibrous core 26 of high loft batting, which is attached to a cover layer 28 which is aesthetically pleasing. (See Figure 3 and column 4 of of Souders).

Copperwheat teaches (See Figure 1 of Copperwheat) the following, from top to bottom as indicated below:

Facing Fabric 17

Adhesive 20

Formable Fabric Layer 5

Adhesive 14

Variable Compression Fabric 2

Adhesive 11

Formable Fabric Layer 8

Thus, Copperwheat has a "formable fabric layer" sandwich (in **bold** above), with a variable compression fabric 2 (*italics* above) in between these formable layers.

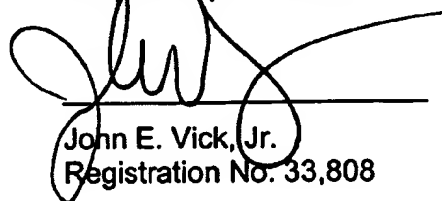
Copperwheat does not disclose two distinct layers of nonwoven material, including a batting layer and a high loft non-rigid cushion layer of nonwoven material. However, claim 1 of the application as amended recites specifically two distinct layers of nonwoven material, which includes both a non-rigid cushion layer and a batting layer.

There is no teaching in Souders or Copperwheat in favor of adding an additional and separate cushion layer of nonwoven to the structure of either of these references, to construct a material having the same characteristics as the invention as claimed.

Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Vick, Jr.
Registration No. 33,808

MILLIKEN AND COMPANY
920 Milliken Road, M-495
Spartanburg, SC 29303
Telephone (864) 503-1383
Facsimile (864) 503-1999

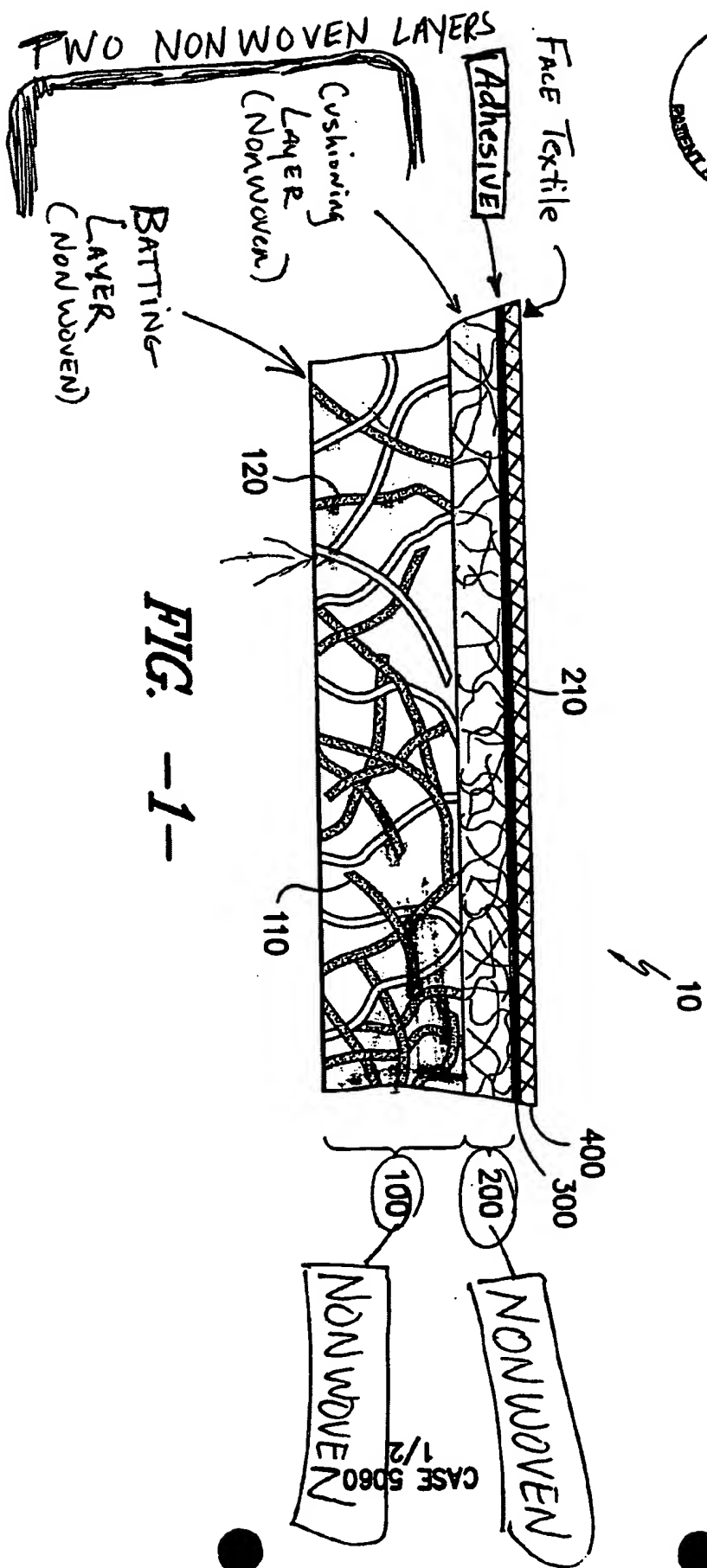


FIG. -1-